deficit came in at 2.4 percent of GDP. These events demonstrate the commitment of the Israeli government to fiscal consolidation and reform.

Second, the Israeli consumer price index (CPI) for 1997 rose by only 7 percent, at the bottom of the 7–10 percent 1997 target range and a 28-year low. This indicates that the battle being waged by the Bank of Israel and the Israeli government against persistent inflation is succeeding. The Israeli Ministry of Finance is reportedly considering lowering the 1998 inflation target (currently set at 7–10 percent) in order to consolidate the strong inflation performance registered in 1997.

This information will be included in the 1998 report to the Congress on the Loan Guarantees to Israel Program.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 24, 1998.*

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on International Relations.

¶9.24 FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A further message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

¶9.25 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. COOKSEY, laid before the House a message from the President, which was read as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 19(3) of the Public Telecommunications Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–356), I transmit herewith the report of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 25, 1998.*

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

¶9.26 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted—

To Mrs. KENNELLY, for today before 4:30 p.m.;

To Mr. MICA, for today; and

To Mr. LUTHER, for today.

And then,

¶9.27 ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. GREEN, at 5 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m., the House adjourned.

¶9.28 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, report of committees was delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 368. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2460) to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to scanning receivers and similar devices (Rept. No. 105–421). Referred to the House Calendar.

¶9.29 PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 5 of Rule X and clause 4 of Rule XXII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MCHUGH, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MILLER of California, Mr. WEYGAND, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. LAFALCE, Mr. TIERNEY, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. YATES, and Mr. COYNE):

H.R. 3258. A bill to eliminate the March 1999 sunset of consumer price protections on cable programming services; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. BENTSEN, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. FROST, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. SANDLIN):

H.R. 3259. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify that any restrictions on private contracts for Medicare beneficiaries do not apply to non-covered services; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. UPTON (for himself, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. CAMP, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, and Mr. BARCIA of Michigan):

H.R. 3260. A bill to amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act to exclude Lake Champlain from the definition of the Great Lakes, which was added by the National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act of 1998; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. PAUL:

H.R. 3261. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect the integrity and confidentiality of Social Security account numbers issued under such title, and to prohibit the establishment in the Federal Government of any uniform national identifying number; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. FURSE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. VENTO, Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. DIXON, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, Mr. EVANS, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. FROST, Mr. YATES, Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts, Mr. OLVER, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. OWENS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. STARK, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MILLER of California, and Mr. FARR of California):

H.R. 3262. A bill to reauthorize the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO:

H.R. 3263. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 300 Recinto Sur Street in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the ''Jose V. Toledo United States Post Office and Courthouse''; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BAESLER (for himself and Mr. HAMILTON):

H.R. 3264. A bill to stabilize tobacco quota fluctuations despite any comprehensive legal settlement between cigarette manufacturers and State governments, to require cigarette manufacturers to pay all Department of Agriculture costs associated with tobacco regulation, to establish a voluntary quota retirement system for tobacco quota holders, to provide market transition assistance for tobacco producers, tobacco industry workers, and their communities, particularly in the event of tobacco quota reductions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, the Judiciary, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CANNON:

H.R. 3265. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act with regard to qualifications for membership in a Federal credit union; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

By Mr. CLYBURN (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. HILLIARD, Ms. WATERS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. STOKES, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. DIXON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mr. WYNN, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, Mr. JACKSON, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. CARSON, Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FORD, Ms. KILPATRICK, and Mr. MEEKS of New York):

H.R. 3266. A bill to amend section 507 of the Omnibus Parks and Public Land Management Act of 1996 to provide additional funding for the preservation and restoration of historic buildings and structures at historically black colleges and universities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. BROWN of California):

H.R. 3267. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a feasibility study and construct a project to reclaim the Salton Sea; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. JENKINS:

H.R. 3268. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on the chemical DEMT; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H.R. 3269. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a program to